



Publié sur *La Vie des Classiques* (<https://96.ip-213-32-20.eu>)

[Accueil](#) > Commercial use of my stuff by someone else?

COMMERCIAL USE OF MY STUFF BY SOMEONE ELSE?

Today I received an email from “Delphi Classics” asking if they could use the Eusebius translations from [my website](#) for an upcoming eBook of the works of Eusebius. These consist of translations now out of copyright, which I scanned, plus material that others sent me, and stuff that I commissioned myself. They’re not offering me money, of course.

It was bound to happen. Indeed it has probably happened already, without my knowledge. It’s a funny feeling, to think of someone else making money out of my hard work.

They’re not intending to contribute anything – they just see a commercial opportunity. Maybe they are right.

I have sent them an email of consent, all the same. The purpose of everything I do is to make stuff freely and widely available. If these people can get the works into the hands of more people, then this is well and good.

I do not believe that there is any real money in the fathers. I’ve never made a penny from what I do. I owe all my interest to the work of the Christian Classics Ethereal Library, by Harry Plantinga, back in the day, who made the original *Ante-Nicene, Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers* available to us all for nothing. I can hardly do otherwise.

Copyright can be a real obstacle. Long ago I used to be interested in a role-playing game called *Empire of the Petal Throne*. This never became very widely known. The author, M. A. R. Barker, was obsessed with control of the publishing rights. This concern came out all over the place; and I always felt that it must have limited the circulation of EPT material. I never wanted to do that.

So I’ve let them do what they want. I hope that they sell a shed-load of Eusebius books. Who knows who will read them and be inspired?

All the same, it’s still a funny feeling.
